

When Reverend Sydney L. Webb appeared on the scene in 1967, the congregation concluded that Pratt must rise to the new challenge in the age of space. As a first step, they envisioned a much needed renovation and building program. With conference and local financial obligations completed for the conference year, the congregation decided to launch a 66th Anniversary program to celebrate as well as to raise funds for the building program. The 66th Anniversary was held June 2, 1968. In June 1969, Reverend Webb was appointed by the Conference to head the Jackson District.

Reverend C. E. Applebeny advanced plans initiated by Reverend Webb, the first pastor to serve the church after it became known as Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church. This was due to the union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Reverend Appleberry served two faithful years.

Reverend C. P. Payne, who became the only pastor to serve Pratt Memorial on more than one occasion, succeeded Reverend Appleberry. After a two-year period, Reverend Coleman Turner succeeded Reverend Payne. Under Reverend Turner's supervision, the church took on a new life, the choir took on a new look, and the young people became more active in all phases of church life. The financial affairs of the church were ordered and funds were raised to begin the second phase of the building program. The repair of the church steeple was also made. The United Methodist Women were reorganized under Reverend Turner's administration and the women of the church began serving as officers, a choice not open to them before.

Following Reverend Turner's retirement after 11 years of service, the 1984 June Annual Conference appointed Reverend Noah Lee Moore to Pratt. As he took over the reins, Reverend Moore faced an uncertain church renovation and remodeling program, which had come to a halt. Being a dynamic young minister with deep spiritual convictions, he provided the leadership for the hour. In less than a year and a half, the church parsonage was renovated, upgraded and painted, followed by the remodeling and renovation of the entire church. During the same time span, the United Methodist Men's organization was revived and revitalized. The youth and children of the church became organized and their activities added much to the life of the church. But perhaps the most historical accomplishment during this period was the resolving of the divisible issue of two units of United Methodist Women in the church. One all-inclusive unit was formed and developed in keeping with the laws of the United Methodist Church. With the anticipated strengthening of all areas of the church so as to implement the ministry it espouses, the securing of a loan from the general church to take over the mortgage incurred for the building program was implemented under the leadership banner of Reverend Moore.

Reverend Deborah Mingo Palmer, Pratt Memorial's first female pastor, succeeded Reverend Noah Moore in June 1993. Her ability to inspire and teach the word of God through illustrative sermons sparked increases in Sunday School and worship services' attendance. Her talent for planning and presenting special programs and services made the worship experience unique, colorful and as always—spir-

itually uplifting. The high energy and innovative ideas of the pastor motivated the membership to revitalize ministries that already had great potential, such as communication, children, youth and young adult ministries. Wonderful Wednesday, Sensational Saturday, The Singles, Orientation Sunday School Class were new ones for Pratt.

Another first for Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church was the addition of three Associate Pastors to the personnel roster; Reverend Glenda Funchess, Reverend Carl Palmer, Jr. (the pastor's spouse) and Reverend Eliza Forbes. The Associate Ministers were involved in worship services and other junctions to give ministerial support for the pastor.

In Reverend Palmer's fourth year span of leadership, the church parsonage was renovated to accommodate a three-room office and small group meeting space. The church steeple was repaired, two additional lots were purchased and the parking lot was paved and lined.

Reverend John L. Cornelius was appointed the thirty-third pastor at the June 1997 and the church purchased the home next to the church parsonage. This was the beginning of the Pratt Memorial UMC Resource Center for computer training and after school tutorial. During Reverend Cornelius' term, the Administrative Council also approved the purchase of a computer and software to keep finances electronically.

Rev. Selber M. McShepard was appointed the thirty-fourth pastor of Pratt at the June 2005. With a strong spirit of ministry Pratt connected with eight other West Jackson Churches in The Cluster. The Cluster churches worked on outreach ministry in the district, as well as exchanging pastors one Sunday out of the year. Rev. McShepard encouraged the youth of the church to become active through attendance, in summer camps and connectional ministry meetings. She also worked with the Building and Redevelopment Committee of the church toward the planning of Pratt's first Family Life Center.

Rev. Brenda McCaskill was appointed the thirty-fifth pastor of Pratt at the June 2010 Mississippi Conference. She immediately began to work toward improving leadership in the church by conducting monthly Leadership Training Classes. She focused on ministering to young adults in the church and community by helping to establish a Sunday School class and other social activities. Rev. McCaskill was instrumental in establishing a toll free Prayer Line Monday through Friday to pray for their concerns. Her Outreach Ministry included visiting local prisons and programs like the "Gospel and Youth Explosion" held in the community.

In June of 2013, Rev. DeMario F. Benson, Sr. was appointed the thirty-six pastor of Pratt. He has also focused on improving leadership at Pratt and youth and young adult involvement within the church. He has also been instrumental in initiating a Youth Ministry, Singles Ministry, and Marriage Ministry while at Pratt. We trust that under his leadership, we can keep the faith and adhere to those same principles, which started Pratt on this journey one hundred sixteen years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church as they strive to be the guide for others to find the joy of serving God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

## EASTLAKE LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR SOFTBALL TEAM

### HON. DAVID. G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary merit of the Eastlake Little League All-Star Softball Team from Sammamish, WA, today, September 12, 2013.

The Eastlake Little League All-Star Softball Team won the state championship before advancing to the West Regional Tournament in San Bernardino, California. At the West Regional Tournament they had an electrifying run defeating Alaska 11–0, Montana 9–8, and Idaho 11–1, before falling to Oregon 4–2 and then to California 4–1 in the regional semifinals.

Throughout the state and regional tournaments, they demonstrated great cohesion and teamwork. Congratulations to the Eastlake Little League All-Star Softball Team for an outstanding tournament; they are deserving of very special recognition. The players and coaches who made this excellent season possible are listed below.

Players: Georgia Robinson, Mackenzie Kurtz, Sophia Robinson, Belle deOliveira, Kailey Mohamed, Natalie Guinasso, Josie Charles, Morgan Olynk, Courtney Zaidi, Regan Hines, Ryan Kurtz, Peyton Wright, Hannah Butterklee, and Kaitlyn Recob

Coaches: Don Hines, Steve Pollis, Stevev Olynk

## ON THE OCCASION OF SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATIONS OF CREDIT UNION ONE

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Credit Union ONE as its employees, executives, members and the communities it serves celebrate seventy-five years of operations. Over its seven-and-a-half decades of business, Credit Union ONE has remained true to its roots in the Southeast Michigan community.

Credit Unions are important local financial institutions that know their neighbors and use their unique understanding to serve their communities with the tools that are necessary to grow and prosper. Credit Union ONE was founded in 1938 when fifteen neighbors in Ferndale, Michigan came together to create the Ferndale Co-Op Credit Union, and is a shining example of the strong connection credit unions have to the communities they serve. These concerned neighbors worked together with the shared goal of helping the neighborhoods of Ferndale thrive. With its strong roots in the Greater Detroit region, Credit Union ONE has grown to be one top ten credit unions in Michigan with over 106,000 members—a long way from its humble start in the basement of church in Ferndale. Over the years, Credit Union ONE has substantially expanded the services it offers to its members from its nineteen branches across Michigan, rising to meet their needs